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APPLICATION OF DOUGLAS § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
UTILITY COMPANY TO CHANGE §
WATER AND SEWER RATE/TARIFF § OF
IN HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS §
§ ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

**EQUALITY COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION'S
REPLY TO NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR RATE/TARIFF
CHANGE AND PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF INCREMENTAL REVENUES FILED
BY DOUGLAS UTILITY COMPANY**

Equality Community Housing Corporation ("Equality") files this Reply to the Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Rate/Tariff Change and Proposed Disposition of Incremental Revenues filed by Douglas Utility Company. In general, Equality does not object to the application being withdrawn, provided that certain conditions are included in any order approving the withdrawal. In support thereof, Equality would show as set forth below.

Equality respectfully requests that the ALJ issue an order authorizing the withdrawal of the application with the following requirements:

- 1) A procedural schedule should be adopted along the following lines, which Equality understands is the same schedule that the PUC Staff will recommend; to wit:
 - a. Douglas shall submit a certified financial report to all parties showing all refunds/surcharges owed to or from all of its customers on or before September 30, 2015, so all customers have a fair opportunity to review and verify the amounts.
 - b. Staff shall file its recommendation on the refund/surcharge information filed by Douglas by October 14, 2015.

- c. All parties shall file their respective responses to Staff's recommendations by October 21, 2015.
- d. Staff shall make its final recommendations by November 6, 2015.
- e. The ALJ shall issue a dismissal order showing all refunds/surcharges by December 6, 2015, or as soon thereafter as possible.

2) Douglas should be ordered to pay all refunds owed within six months of the ALJ's final approval of the refund amounts. For over two years, since May 12, 2013, Douglas has been charging rates to Equality that Douglas now desires to rescind. As a consequence, Douglas holds a large sum of Equality's money, an amount that Equality estimates to be approximately \$266,707.00. Equality should not suffer further financial consequences by waiting two more years to receive a refund of its money.

3) Douglas should be required to pay interest on the amount owed at the rates authorized by the PUC for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, until fully repaid to its customers.

4) Lastly, if any customer owes a surcharge to Douglas, Equality believes that such customer should be given two years to pay such surcharge.

Request for Relief

For the foregoing reasons, Equality Community Housing Corporation respectfully requests that the ALJ issue an order authorizing the withdrawal of the rate application made by Douglas subject to the requirements outlined above. Equality requests all further relief to which it may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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**ATTORNEYS FOR EQUALITY
COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served as indicated below upon the following on the 10th day of September, 2015.

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